

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /063 W

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R 161440Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3446

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2470

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR PFOR UK WB

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: UK PROPOSAL ON BERLIN-LONDON CHARTERS

REF: A. BONN 4260, B. BONN 17488, C. BONN 19227

1. BERLIN NEWSPAPER TAGESSPIEGEL CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE NOV. 14 WHICH DETAILED CONTENTS OF BRITISH PAPER ON BERLIN-LONDON CHARTERS WHICH PASSED BY BRITISH TO OTHER CAA'S MARCH 11 (REFA). NEWSPAPER DESCRIBED BRITISH PAPER AS "SECRET" DOCUMENT (COPY WE HAVE SEEN IS NOT CLASSIFIED) WHICH IS SUBSTANTIATION FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S EXCLUSION OF PAN AMERICAN FROM LONDON CHARTER MARKET SINCE NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR.

2. NEWSPAPER CITES GUIDELINES PROPOSED BY BRITISH, INCLUDING POINT THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN BERLIN AND POINTS OUTSIDE FRG, BUT WITH CONDITION THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO (1) BEAR IN MIND THAT KNOWN CONCERNS
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OF THE SOVIET UNION " AND THE GDR" ABOUT SUCH SERVICES, AND

(2) NOT TO PROVOKE A DISPUTE OVER THE CORRIDOR REGIME, AS IGS TRAFFIC MUST ALWAYS HAVE FIRST PRIORITY. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT BERLIN AIR CIRCLES EXPECT THE BRITISH PAPER TO BE SHARPLY REBUTTED BY THE AMERICANS, WHO "TEND TO A LIBERAL AVIATION POLICY AND WHO DO NOT ACCEPT THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM BERLIN."

3. COMMENT: WE THINK THAT SERVICES FROM BERLIN ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE TO THE FRG OR ELSEWHERE. HAVING IN MIND THE ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE WELFARE OF BERLIN AS A WHOLE, WE ARE LOATH TO ASSIGN PRIORITIES TO VARIOUS AIR SERVICES TO AND FROM THE CITY. WE THINK THAT ANY SERVICE THAT IMPROVES BERLIN'S AIR ACCESS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. CONSEQUENTLY WE FIND IT UNFORTUNATE THAT DIFFERING BRITISH VIEW HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD IN THE PRESS. MOREOVER, UNFORTUNATE APPPOSITION OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN VIEWS ON SOVIET/GDR REACTION MAY CAUSE SOVIETS TO THINK THEY HAVE DETECTED RIFT AMONG ALLIES THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED POSSIBLY BY INCREASING PRESSURE TO CURTAIL SERVICES SUCH AS SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO ZURICH OR CHARTER FLIGHTS TO INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS. IN ADDITION, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ALLIED DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN VENTILATED PUBLICLY. APPEARANCE OF CONTINUED COMMERCIAL SQUABBLING DOES LITTLE FOR IMAGE OF ALLIED AVIATION HERE.
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